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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/826,782	04/16/2004	Patrick C. Dubbert	MBB 8550U1	1277
1688	7590	03/03/2008	EXAMINER	
POLSTER, LIEDER, WOODRUFF & LUCCHESI			CHIN SHUE, ALVIN C	
12412 POWERSCOURT DRIVE SUITE 200				
ST. LOUIS, MO 63131-3615			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3634	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/03/2008		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>		<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
10/826,782		DUBBERT ET AL.	
<b>Examiner</b>	Alvin C. Chin-Shue	<b>Art Unit</b>	3634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/14/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6,8-12 and 16-21 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6,8-12 and 19-21 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 16-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/908)
 

Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 

Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over St-Germain in view of Shoemaker and Rugger. St-Germain shows the claimed assembly having the claimed standoff bracket at 5-9,11, a standoff leg at 10 and dowel at 23, the claimed difference being the attachment strap and retainer body. Shoemaker shows an attachment strap 34 with an eyelet 22, a retainer body 20 with slotted walls 78, and a wedge 22. Rugger shows an attachment strap made from a flexible material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide St-Germain with an attachment strap and body, as taught by Shoemaker, and for the strap to be made of a flexible material, as taught by Rugger, to enable a flexible attachment member that is capable of being used with his standoff bracket and being capable of attaching to a wall. To slope the surface of the slots to correspond to the slope of the wedge, would have been an obvious engineering expediency depending on the degree of wedging desired with respect to the depth of insertion of the wedge.

Applicant's arguments filed 12/14/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that to use a flexible strap with the standoff bracket of St. Germain would be inoperative, the examiner disagrees, the flexible strap is capable of being attached to the dowel of St. Germain and further be capable of being passed through a wall. With respect to claim 18, note the body of the rejection above.

Claims 1-6,8-12 and 19-21 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 12/14/07.

Applicant's election with traverse of Group II in the reply filed on 12/14/07 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that only the underlined verbiage is different and asserted that the examiner stated that the addition of new claim 21 allow for the new restriction. This is not found persuasive because the reason for the new restriction had nothing to do with new claim 21, but the currently amended independent claim 16, in the first restriction requirement applicant added a new claim 20 whereby a combination - subcombination (as recited in independent claim 13) restriction requirement would not be proper. But

due to the new subcombination, as set forth in the (currently amended) independent claim 16, such is a proper restriction.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alvin C. Chin-Shue whose telephone number is

571-272-6828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Katherine Mitchell can be reached on 571-272-7069. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alvin C. Chin-Shue/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3634